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THE MELANCHOLY of HARUHI SUZUMIYA

ART BY GAKU TSUGANO

STORY BY NAGARU TANIGAWA

CHARACTERS BY: NOIZI ITO

SHE CAN CONTROL THE POWER MUCH BETTER THAN HARUHI SUZUMIYA.

WE'LL BE ABLE TO ACCESS INFINITE POSSI-BILITIES!

AND THAT'S WHAT I WANT TO DO, SIS!

ううう (WOOO)

PLEASE, FORGET ABOUT ME.

YOU MUSTN'T USE THE TPDD FOR SUCH THINGS.

WE COULD CHOOSE OUR OWN FUTURE!

THE MELANCHOLY of HARUHI SUZUMIYA

20

ORIGINAL STORY
Nagaru Tanigawa

MANGA
Gaku Tsugano

CHARACTER DESIGN:
Noizi Ito

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I DON'T CARE WHAT HAP-PENS TO THE WORLD.

SIS, I JUST...

...I CAN'T LET MYSELF LOSE YOU AGAIN!

THE PERSON NATIVE TO YOUR TIMELINE IS NOT ME.

I DO NOT HAVE A YOUNGER BROTHER.

IT'S THE SAME THING.

THE FACT THAT YOU WERE LOST IN MY TIMELINE...

...MEANS THAT AT THE INTER-SECTION POINT IN THE FUTURE, YOU'LL...

THE FUTURE CAN BE CHANGED.

TRYING TO PREVENT THAT...

YOUR FUTURE IS THE PAST TO SOMEONE BEYOND IT.

FIXED REALITY MUST REMAIN UNCHANGED...

LIKE HELL IT CAN!

...WE ALREADY CAN'T TRAVEL BACK ANY FURTHER THAN FOUR YEARS AGO!

BUT...

THAT'S WHY WE EXIST.

SO WE SHOULD JUST DO IT HERE.

THERE'S ALWAYS A RUPTURE, ALWAYS...

THERE'S NO OPPORTUNITY TO CORRECT THE TIME PLANE.

BA (WHF)

I UNDER-STAND BETTER THAN ANYONE!

...WHO HAVE COME TO ADJUST THE TIME PLANE!

YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONES...

I CAN'T ALLOW THAT.

DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE SAYING?

THE TPDD!

THAT'S RIGHT.

BUT THAT SAME TRAVEL DAMAGES THE PLANE ITSELF.

TIME TRAVEL USING THE TPDD IS NECESSARY IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN THE NORMAL ORDER OF THE TIME PLANE.

IT'S OFTEN CALLED A DOUBLE-EDGED SWORD.

REPAIRING THE HOLES IN TIME THE TPDD CAUSED WAS NOT SIMPLE.

SO WHY ARE YOU HERE?

WE CANNOT CHANGE THE PAST... NOR THE FUTURE.

BUT WHILE I WAS PURSUING THIS, I DISCOV-ERED OTHER PHE-NOM-ENA.

FOR THIS, RIGHT HERE, RIGHT NOW.

REPAIRING DISLOCATIONS IN THE TIME PLANE AS THEY HAPPEN!

WE NEED ONLY BRING THE MATERIAL OF THE PRESENT INTO THE FUTURE TO CONTINUE TO CHANGE IT.

TIME IS CONSTRUCTED OF INNUMER-ABLE INSTANTS LIKE THIS ONE.

IF I USE HARUHI SUZUMIYA'S POWER...

IT CAN BE DONE!

THAT'S IMPOS-SIBLE!

DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW MUCH ENERGY IS REQUIRED TO DESTROY FIXED EVENTS?

HARUHI SUZUMIYA'S BEEN DOING THAT ALL ALONG, ANYWAY!

SINCE LONG BEFORE WE EVER ARRIVED HERE!

WE'LL WORRY ABOUT THAT ONCE WE'VE FIXED SPACE-TIME TO OUR FUTURE.

I DON'T CARE WHAT HAP-PENS TO HISTORY ALONG THE WAY.

I'LL RE-WRITE ALL OF SPACE-TIME...

...FROM THIS TIME PLANE ON INTO THE FUTURE.

I SUPPOSE THIS ISN'T ACTUALLY THE FIRST TIME WE'VE MET, THOUGH.

...BUT I'M SO PLEASED TO FINALLY MEET YOU.

SORRY TO INTERRUPT THE ARGUMENT...

KO (TUP)

BA (WHF)

YOU'RE... YOU'RE COMMITTING WHAT IS A SERIOUS CRIME IN YOUR TIMELINE.

THIS IS AN UN-FORGIV-ABLE CRIME!

ISN'T THAT RIGHT, ASAHINA-SAN?

BUT FROM YOUR PERSPECTIVE, YOU MAY NOT HAVE SEEN ME IN QUITE SOME TIME.

THERE ARE THINGS THAT EVEN I AM PROHIBITED FROM DOING.

BUT I CAN'T TELL YOU ANY-THING.

YOU'RE A HIGHLY DANGEROUS PERSON.

...THAT'S PROBABLY TRUE.

THOSE WORDS ALONE ARE ENOUGH.

I UNDER-STAND.

TRUTH-FULLY.

I'D LOVE TO REMINISCE WITH YOU, THOUGH.

ONE CARELESS WORD FROM ME COULD BECOME TEN WORDS' WORTH OF INFORMATION FOR YOU.

YOU'RE SIMPLY TOO CLEVER.

ABOVE ALL...

...THANKS TO YOU COMING HERE, I'VE UNDERSTOOD WHAT IT IS I NEED TO DO.

EVEN IF THAT WAS FAKE, IT AMOUNTS TO THE SAME THING.

YOU'VE TOLD ME WHAT I AM...

...AND HOW I'M VIEWED IN THE FUTURE.

THE FACT THAT YOU APPEARED IN FRONT OF ME IS EXTRAOR-DINARY.

I'LL DO MY OWN INFOR-MATION ANALYSIS.

YOU MUST NEED MY POWER FOR WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN NEXT.

WHICH MEANS I WILL HAVE TO FACE SOMETHING EXTRAORDINARY MYSELF.

AM I WRONG?

NO, NOT JUST MINE.

YOU REQUIRE SUZUMIYA-SAN'S POWER AS WELL.

THAT'S WHY YOU WERE INVITED INTO THE SOS BRIGADE... CHOSEN BY SUZUMIYA-SAN.

I'VE ALWAYS FELT THIS WAY, BUT...

...KOIZUMI, OUT OF ALL THE STC DATA, YOU TRULY ARE AN IRREPLACEABLE INDIVIDUAL.

ASKING QUESTIONS YOU ALREADY KNOW THE ANSWER TO IS A BAD HABIT.

SO WHAT OF YOU?

FOR WHAT PURPOSE HAVE YOU RE-TURNED TO INTER-FERE WITH YOUR PAST SELF?

AS IS NAGATO-SAN, AND THE YOUNGER ASAHINA-SAN.

I AM PART OF THE SOS BRIGADE.

I'VE BECOME AWARE OF THAT.

THOUGH AT FIRST, I ONLY HALF-BELIEVED IT

...BE UN-SURPRISED.

I WOULD MERELY...

BUT PLEASE REMEMBER THIS.

I'M SURE IF I WENT BACK INTO THE PAST AND THE INHABITANTS THERE ASKED ME THAT QUESTION, I WOULD TELL THEM THE SAME THING.

WHAT IF I SAID THAT WAS... CLASSIFIED INFORMATION?

I WOULD ASK YOU NOT TO UNDER-ESTIMATE THE HUMANS OF THE PAST.

I WON'T GO SO FAR AS TO SAY THIS APPLIES TO ALL HUMANITY...

WE ARE NOT SO VERY FOOLISH, YOU SEE.

THANKS TO ALL THE COMMOTION THAT THE VARIOUS ALIENS HAVE CAUSED, YOU SEE.

LITTLE BY LITTLE, I'VE COME TO UNDERSTAND THIS.

...BUT HUMANS WHO ARE CONCERNED WITH THE FUTURE CERTAINLY DO EXIST.

WELL...

AM I WRONG ?

IT'S NOT THAT IT WEAKENS WITH USE...

...BUT SHE WON'T HAVE IT FOREVER.

SUZUMIYA'S ABILITY IS NOT PERMANENT, IS IT?

YOUR PRETENTIOUS NONSENSE MAKES ME WANT TO PUKE!

SHUT YOUR MOUTH!

KU-YOH— DO IT!

HE'S TOTALLY LOST IT!?

HE'S —!

HAH... NO MATTER HOW MANY WORDS I WASTE, THESE FOOLS WILL NEVER UNDERSTAND.

I WAS SUCH AN IDIOT.

I SHOULD HAVE DONE THIS FROM THE START!

KILL HARUHI SUZUMIYA.

CARRY OUT OUR AGREE-MENT.

YOU DON'T UNDER-STAND? I'LL PUT IT ANOTHER WAY, THEN.

BRING HER BIOLOGICAL FUNCTIONS TO AN END!

YOU SAID YOU COULD DO IT.

AND THE ONE CLOSEST TO HARUHI RIGHT NOW IS...

A CONTAINER...

THAT MEANS HARUHI'S POWERS COULD BE GIVEN TO ANYONE.

HARUHI'S POWERS COULD BE STOLEN. EVEN NAGATO HAS DONE IT BEFORE.

A VESSEL— THAT'S RIGHT.

IS IT POSSIBLE THAT SHE'S BEING CONTROLLED BY WHAT THEY'RE SAYING...?

SASAKI.

THEY MIGHT BRAINWASH HER, OR DEPROGRAM HER, OR... TAKE SOMEONE HOSTAGE?

VII

VII (VRREEE)

SOME PHENOMENON IS HINDERING MY MOVEMENT.

VII

OR THE HARUHI SUZUMIYA PRESENT IN THIS SPACE-TIME CONTINUUM ...

...IS COUNTERING ME THREE LEVELS DEEP.

VU

VU (VVV)

BI

BI (BZZT)

ALSO.

COMPLYING WITH YOUR DIRECTIVE CODE IS DIFFICULT.

I CANNOT ESCAPE FROM THIS CLOSED SPACE.

GUGUGU (HRRRGH)

I SAID IT WAS DIFFICULT.

...BUT I CAN SUMMON THE SUBJECT.

DAMN YOU! WE COME ALL THIS WAY, AND YOU EXPECT ME TO BE SATISFIED WITH THAT?

LIKE THIS—!

BA (WHAP)

VUN (VRRMM)

HARUHI!

IS SHE REALLY ASLEEP, OR IS SHE BEING KEPT UNCON-SCIOUS?

SHE LOOKS LIKE A BROKEN DOLL!

THERE WAS NO RESPONSE.

NOT YET!

I NEVER ORDERED YOU TO BRING HER HERE ALIVE!

MY REQUIREMENT WAS THE DEATH OF HARUHI SUZUMIYA!

I HAVE FORCIBLY TRANSPORTED HARUHI SUZUMIYA FROM OUTSIDE THE CLOSED SPACE.

SHE IS RECOGNIZED BY ALL PRESENT AS HARUHI SUZUMIYA.

I HAVE FULFILLED MY OBLIGATION.

THAT'S A ROUNDABOUT WAY OF DOING IT, BUT IF THAT'S HOW THE HEAVENLY CANOPY DOMAIN THINKS, I'LL RESPECT IT.

I SEE.

GIVEN A FALL FROM THIS ALTITUDE...

IMPLEMENTATION FORTHCOMING.

SO WHAT WILL YOU DO?

THIS IS HOW IT IS, YOU PATHETIC THROW-BACK.

WILL YOU LET HARUHI SUZUMIYA'S LIFE END HERE?

OR WILL YOU MAKE SASAKI THE NEW GOD?

KILLING THIS GIRL WILL BE TRIVIAL.

BY THE LAWS OF TIME TRAVEL, THIS WOULD BE THE WORST CRIME IMAGINABLE!

IS IT CATASTROPHE YOU WANT?

THIS IS MEANING-LESS!

STOP!

BUT I WISH FOR A NEW TIME MORE THAN THE EXISTENCE OF MY TIMELINE.

I DON'T WANT THIS.

KUYOH!

... THAT'S EASIER FOR THESE DENSE ON-LOOKERS TO UNDER-STAND.

CONSTRUCT A SYMBOL...

I'LL MAKE SURE YOU REMAIN, SIS.

EVEN IF IT MEANS I DISAPPEAR, I'LL BET ON THAT.

HGH...!

THIS CONTAINER NO LONGER HAS ANY MEANING!

ONCE WE TRANSFER HER POWER INTO ANOTHER VESSEL...

GIIII (CREEEAAAK)

SO, HOW DO YOU LIKE HAVING THE MOST PRECIOUS PERSON IN YOUR LIFE BEING USED AS A PAWN?

TCH (SHIK)

THAT BASTARD ...!

WHAT KIND OF A FARCE IS THIS!?

I'M AFRAID NOT.

NO.

...TO FORCE YOU INTO TAKING ACTION.

THERE'S NO PROOF THAT THAT'S THE REAL HARUHI SUZUMIYA.

IT COULD BE AN ILLUSION ...

GA (CLENCH)

STAY CALM, KYON-KUN.

SINCE I AM A TOOL OF SUZUMIYA-SAN'S SUBCONSCIOUS.

EVEN IF OTHERS WERE DECEIVED, I CANNOT BE.

THAT IS NONE OTHER THAN OUR BELOVED BRIGADE CHIEF!

WE ARE NOT LOOKING AT AN ILLUSION OR A CLONE.

SASAKI WILL HANDLE HER REMAINING DUTIES. THAT'S THE BEST OPTION.

DON'T WORRY.

I'M GOING TO END SUZUMIYA'S LIFE.

LOOKS LIKE THERE ISN'T GOING TO BE ANY NEGO-TIATING.

DO YOU HAVE SOME KIND OF PLAN...?

IF YOU THINK YOU CAN DO IT, BY ALL MEANS PLEASE TRY.

IS THAT TRUE?

KOIZUMI !?

IS THAT THE RIGHT THING TO DO!?

OF COURSE, I DON'T HAVE ANY IDEAS ABOUT OUR CAPTURED PRINCESS UP THERE.

AM I WRONG?

IT'S ALWAYS THE PRINCE'S ROLE TO SAVE THE PRINCESS WHEN SHE'S IMPRISONED IN THORNS.

NOT JUST HIS ROLE— HIS DUTY.

-GUGU (CLENCH)

I'LL TAKE CARE OF THAT.

BUT I STILL HAVE IMPORTANT FACE-PUNCHING BUSINESS WITH FUJIWARA.

YOU'RE NOT

BOTSU (WIBB)

I FEEL AS THOUGH I'VE BECOME THE PROTAGONIST OF AN ESPER MANGA.

THIS IS MY LAST CHANCE TO MAKE MY DREAM COME TRUE, YOU SEE.

I MAY NOT HAVE THIS CHANCE AGAIN, SO I HOPE YOU'LL LET ME SEIZE THIS ONE.

KOAAAA (WOOOOO)

GO RIGHT AHEAD.

...BUT HE'S SERIOUSLY PISSED.

HIS VOICE IS STILL PLEASANT ...

YOU'VE GOTTA GET YOUR EXERCISE IF YOU WANT TO STAY SHARP.

TA (DASH)

WHA—!

KUYOH!

DO IT!

BABAN (WHOOSH)

HARUHI—!

I WASN'T THINKING ABOUT ANYTHING.

LIKE I EXPECTED WINGS TO SPROUT FROM MY BACK.

NOT ABOUT CONSEQUENCES, MEMORIES, OR MY SENSE OF DUTY.

I JUST JUMPED OUT INTO THIN AIR.

AND PULLED BY GRAVITY, WE BEGAN TO FALL.

HEAD-FIRST.

BOTH OF US.

I GRABBED HER.

SHE WAS SURPRISINGLY LIGHT AND SLENDER.

I MEAN, I'D NEVER SERIOUSLY EMBRACED HER LIKE THAT BEFORE.

HARUHI'S BODY WAS MORE DELICATE THAN I'D IMAGINED.

SHE WAS JUST A SECOND-YEAR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT, IN THE BLOOM OF HER GIRLHOOD.

BUT THE FEELING OF WARMTH, OF SOFTNESS, MADE ME REALIZE THAT THIS REALLY WAS HARUHI.

NONE OTHER THAN HARUHI SUZUMIYA HERSELF.

THIS WAS THE TRUE FORM OF SLEEPING BEAUTY.

THERE WAS NOTHING ELSE IN MY EYES.

KOIZUMI, ASAHINA THE ELDER...

COULD YOU SEE THE FUTURE YOU WANTED TO BRING ABOUT?

HE'D BEEN SERIOUS.

FUJIWARA... YOU WERE REALLY WILLING TO GO THAT FAR?

I'M SORRY.

ALL I COULD SEE WAS THE PERSON RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME.

TIGHTER AND MORE STRONGLY THAN I EVER HAD.

I CLOSED MY EYES AND EMBRACED HER.

HARUHI SUZUMIYA.

THE SURPRISE OF HARUHI SUZUMIYA XII : END

IT CAN'T BE!

(VROOO)

HOW CAN THAT THING BE HERE —!?

I LOOK UP, AND THERE'S A GIANT WALL?

NO, IT'S NOT.

IT'S... A CELESTIAL.

(GUGUGU RRRMMMBLE)

THOSE ARMS THAT CAN SMASH ANY BUILDING...

THAT FAINTLY BLUE GLOWING OUTLINE ...

VOOOOOOO
(VWOOOOO)

WHY IS THERE A CELESTIAL HERE?

DO YOU HAVE THE ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION, HARUHI?

...JUST AS AN ORANGE-COLORED EXPLOSION BLEW THROUGH THE WINDOW.

FROM THE PALM OF THE CELESTIAL, I LOOKED UP TO THE CLUB ROOM...

HN...

I DIDN'T CARE ABOUT FUJIWARA, BUT I HOPED THAT ASAHINA THE ELDER AND KYOKO TACHIBANA WERE SAFE.

I GUESS KOIZUMI HAD FINALLY LOST HIS TEMPER.

THE CELESTIAL... HELPED US?

GUGUGU (KRUMBLING)

GO (BOOOM)

EVERYTHING SEEMED TO HAPPEN IN SLOW MOTION.

I WAS ASSAILED BY A SENSE OF TIME COMPRESSION.

THAT SILHOUETTE, IT WAS...

IT JUST PUNCHED THE CLUB ROOM—!?

PI
(TING)

...YASUMI...
WATAHASHI...

HYUUU
(WHOOOOO)

(WOO)

IS
THAT...

I COULDN'T MAKE OUT HER FACE, BUT I WAS SURE THAT SHE WAS SMILING.

HYUU

ASAKURA...

KIMIDORI-SAN...

SO THEY'D COME.

NO LONGER CONFINED TO HER BED.

AS QUIET AND HEALTHY AS EVER.

AND ON THE OTHER SIDE, YUKI NAGATO.

UGH—MY VISION...

JUST LIKE IN THAT ENDLESSLY REPEATED AUGUST...

POSITIONED OUTSIDE THE WORLD, THE DATA OVERMIND WOULD KNOW.

I COULDN'T IMAGINE THAT THESE THREE WOULD HAVE FAILED TO NOTICE THE DISTORTIONS IN THE AXIS OF TIME.

MAYBE IT WAS MEANT FOR ME.

MAYBE SHE WAS SAYING GOOD-BYE.

YASUMI WATAHASHI WAS WAVING AT ME.

AAH ...

I JUST HAD THAT FEELING.

I WOULD PROBABLY NEVER HAVE A CHANCE TO ASK.

WHERE AM I...?

UUH—!

IDOSA (FLUMP)

WHERE DID I GET SENT THIS TIME?

WHAT? WHERE IS THIS?

OW...

THE STUDENTS WALKING AROUND SEEMED MORE SOPHISTICATED, SOMEHOW...

WITH MODERN SCHOOL BUILDINGS...

IT WAS A SCHOOL... BUT NOT NORTH HIGH.

HEY.

THIS HAD TO BE A COLLEGE SOMEWHERE.

WHAT'S WRONG, KYON?

HARU ...

...!?

WHAT'RE YOU DOING, WEARING THAT OLD UNIFORM?

WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA?

...UH, YES, SHE HAD CLEARLY MATURED.

WHAT'RE YOU DOING? HEY...!

SHE WAS SOMEHOW MORE GROWN-UP-LOOKING. NOT JUST THAT...

I WAS SPEECH-LESS.

ZA (ZUD)

HUH?

KYON... WAIT.

YOU SEEM KIND OF YOUNG...

THE WILL OF TIME WAS TRYING TO RETURN ME TO MY ORIGINAL PLACE.

THIS WAS THE DOOR.

WAIT... HOW!?

...SEE YOU, KYON.

YOU'RE THERE TOO...?

MY VISION WENT DARK AGAIN.

...SAID HER KIND, BEAUTIFUL SMILE.

GUH...

I SEEMED

...WHERE WAS I?

TO STAND.

...WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

I FINALLY REAL-IZED.

THIS WAS HARUHI'S ROOM AND HARUHI'S BED.

EVEN THOUGH I'D NEVER ONCE ENTERED IT, SOME-HOW I WAS SURE OF THAT MUCH.

WHERE ...

S-
SURE
...

CLOSE YOUR EYES ...

...AND PUT THE COVERS OVER YOUR HEAD!

"BAAN (SHOVE)"

HEY!

I'M NOT DOING THIS FOR PERVERTED REASONS!

EVEN SO, THERE'S SOMETHING I NEED TO MAKE SURE OF...

IT WAS THE MIDDLE OF APRIL WHEN I'D FALLEN INTO THE CELES-TIAL'S HAND.

SO ASSUMING THE CLOCK'S NOT WAY OFF...

ALARM

MAY

THERE IT IS.

IT'S A DAY IN MAY... WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

IT WAS ALMOST A MONTH IN THE FUTURE FROM THAT DAY.

WHAT THE HECK?

?

OR SOME HERETO-FORE UNKNOWN ABILITY OF THE CELESTIAL?

WAS THIS ASAHINA THE ELDER'S DOING?

THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME I'D JUMPED INTO THE FUTURE.

I WONDER IF SOME-BODY'S OUT THERE.

A PEBBLE HITTING THE WIN-DOW ?

I KNEW EXACTLY WHAT IT WAS THE ANNIVER-SARY OF.

AFTER ALL, I'D DONE SOME-THING SIMILAR FOR A DAY ON MY CALENDAR'S APRIL PAGE.

THERE WAS A CIRCLE ON TODAY'S DATE...

コ!!

KOTSUN (KATUNK)

コン

KON (NOKK)

MIKURU-CHAN!

AND KOIZUMI-KUN, AND YUKI!

I FELT A DEEP SENSE OF RELIEF.

PASHI (KATCH)

HYOI (TOSS)

THIS IS FOR YOU.

WHAT'RE YOU GUYS DOING HERE AT THIS HOUR?

MY HAND-WRITING WAS THERE, THOUGH I HAD NO MEMORY OF PUTTING IT THERE.

THIS...

EACH BRIGADE MEMBER HAD WRITTEN ONE OF THE PHRASES.

SOS団結成一周年記念日
IN HONOR OF THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE SOS BRIGADE
団員一同より団長閣下へ
FROM THE BRIGADE MEMBERS TO HER EXCELLENCY, THE BRIGADE CHIEF
一年分の感謝を込めて
WITH A YEAR'S WORTH OF OUR DEEPEST THANKS.
団員一同
THE BRIGADE MEMBERS

IT WAS AS IMPORTANT AND UNFORGETTABLE A DAY AS OUR HIGH SCHOOL ENTRANCE CEREMONY.

EVERYBODY HAD REMEMBERED.

...MARKED EXACTLY ONE YEAR SINCE HARUHI HAD DECLARED THE FOUNDATION OF THE SOS BRIGADE.

THAT'S RIGHT, THIS DATE, THIS VERY DAY...

SAVE THE WORLD BY OVERLOADING IT, WITH FUN, HARUHI SUZUMIYA BRIGADE! THE SOS BRIGADE!

FROM NOW ON, THIS IS OUR CLUB ROOM!

HARUHI.

WH-WHAT?

THIS WAS THE REAL REASON I WAS HERE, RIGHT?

ISN'T THAT RIGHT, KOIZUMI, NAGATO, ASAHINA-SAN?

AH...

THANKS FOR YOUR HARD WORK AS OUR BRIGADE CHIEF.

I HOPE YOU'LL FAVOR US MOVING FORWARD.

STUPID.

THIS...

GIKU CTWITCHD #11

BY THE WAY, KYON.

HOW DID YOU GET IN MY ROOM?

SHE ACCEPTED THE PRESENT POLITELY.

IT FELT LIKE A SENTI-MENTAL BREEZE BLEW BY.

SOMEONE COULD'VE CALLED THE POLICE ON YOU.

ISN'T THAT KINDA OVER-DOING IT?

YOTTO (FIDGET) よっと

UH, THROUGH THE WINDOW.

YOU'VE GOTTA BE MORE CAREFUL WITH YOUR LOCKS.

TO (TUP) トゥ

THIS IS THE ONLY WAY WE COULD REALLY SURPRISE YOU.

IT WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN A SURPRISE, THEN, WOULD IT?

TO トゥ

CHA (FLIK) チャ

IF YOU WERE GONNA DO A SURPRISE EVENT, YOU COULD'VE PICKED A BETTER TIME.

CHIKA (CHIK) チカ

YEAH... I GUESS.

TO トゥ

AND ANYWAY, YOU WERE PROBABLY EXPECTING SOME-THING, RIGHT?

TO トゥ

...THANKS.

MY APOLO-GIES FOR COMING SO LATE AT NIGHT.

BUT THERE WAS SOMEONE HERE WHO JUST HAD TO EXPRESS THEIR DEEP FEELINGS, YOU SEE.

HER SMILE OUT-SHONE THE FULL MOON.

NORMALLY HER GRIN BLAZED LIKE A VAST STAR, BUT THIS WAS LIKE A PEACEFUL MOON.

ALL I COULD DO WAS GAZE BACK AT HER.

I...

INCIDENTALLY, THE PERSON WHO CHOSE IT IS YOUR BEDROOM INTRUDER HERE.

I HOPE THAT YOU'LL LOOK FORWARD TO OPENING IT AND FINDING OUT.

IT'S PRETTY LATE.

LET'S MEET UP LATER IN THE CLUB ROOM.

BY THE WAY, WHAT'S IN THIS?

GYUUU (KRUUSH)

BUT WE'LL JUST LEAVE IT AT THAT.

PERHAPS WE SHOULD HAVE JUST LEFT EVERYTHING ELSE TO HIM TOO.

HE WAS RATHER INSISTENT ABOUT DOING IT HIMSELF.

THAT'S AN ORDER FROM YOUR BRIGADE CHIEF!

MAKE SURE YUKI AND MIKURU-CHAN GET HOME SAFE, GOT THAT?

TAKE CARE ON YOUR WAY HOME.

I SUPPOSE SHE DOES HAVE A CUTE SIDE.

SHE REALLY WAS BEING CONSIDERATE OF BOTH HER PARENTS AND NEIGHBORS.

SHE LEFT US WITH THOSE WORDS, SPOKEN AT A SURPRISINGLY REASONABLE VOLUME, THEN WENT BACK INSIDE HER HOUSE.

WHICH MEANS ...I'M ... GOING TO HAVE TO DO ANOTHER TIME JUMP.

AND SINCE I'VE MADE LONGER TIME JUMPS THAN THAT, I CAN'T SAY I'M TOO SURPRISED.

I KNOW THIS IS THE MIDDLE OF MAY.

BUT IT IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE JUMPED INTO THE FUTURE.

ER ...!

UM ...

YES. IT WILL BE RATHER INCON-VENIENT IF YOU DON'T.

IN JUST A MOMENT.

AND I'M THE ONE WHO DOES THAT.

YOU MUST BE SENT BACK TO YOUR ORIGINAL TIME.

THAT IS NOT A SUITABLE SOLUTION FOR THIS PROBLEM.

NO.

CAN'T I JUST SLEEP IN A TIME-FREEZE UNTIL THE RIGHT MOMENT COMES?

THE ONE WHO RETURNED FROM THIS TIME TO A MONTH AGO.

ACTUALLY, THERE'S ANOTHER YOU THAT EXISTS IN THIS TIME.

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN, KOI-ZUMI?

IN THE CASE OF TIME TRAVEL, THERE REALLY IS ONLY ONE OF YOU.

AND YOUR DOUBLE EXISTENCE HERE REMAINS UNRESOLVED.

IT WAS SIMPLY THAT THERE, YOUR ORIGINAL SELF HAD SPLIT INTO TWO VERSIONS.

THAT WAS A DIFFERENT CASE.

I'VE HAD MORE THAN ENOUGH OF FUSING WITH ALTERNATE VERSIONS OF MY-SELF.

MUUUU (HNNNG)

FOR US, YOU RETURNING TO THE PAST IS A MATTER OF HISTORY!

...YOU REALLY MUST GO BACK.

AND IT WOULD GO AGAINST THE FIXED EVENT, SO...

THAT'S NOTHING COMPARED TO THREE YEARS

ANYWAY, IT'S JUST A MONTH

AND THAT WAS THE "ME" THAT I HAD TO BECOME.

THE PROOF THAT I DID RETURN TO MY PROPER TIME WAS IN THE FACT THAT THERE WAS ANOTHER ME IN THIS TIME.

SO THAT WAS HOW IT WAS.

THAT SOUNDS LIKE WHAT I'D SAY.

SO JUST THE THREE OF US CAME.

YOU INSISTED THAT YOU REALLY DIDN'T WANT TO MEET YOUR-SELF.

WE WANTED TO BRING THE YOU THAT EXISTS IN THIS TIME PERIOD ALONG TOO, BUT...

PLEASE GIVE THE MATTER SOME THOUGHT ONCE YOU RETURN TO YOUR PROPER TIME.

INCIDENTALLY, I WAS TOLD TO KEEP THE NATURE OF SUZUMIYA'S PRESENT A SECRET.

YEAH, I'LL LOOK YOU UP RIGHT AWAY.

CAN I USE THE CLUB ROOM FOR THAT?

YOU'LL HAVE TO EXPLAIN EVERY-THING TO MY PAST SELF.

AND PLEASE DON'T FORGET TO TELL THE US OF A MONTH AGO ABOUT TODAY.

...I SUPPOSE I'LL LEAVE THAT TO YOU. YOU NEEDN'T OVERTHINK IT.

AS FOR WHERE THAT IS...

NO, WE'LL ACTUALLY BE MEETING IN A DIFFERENT LOCATION.

THE EVER-SILENT GIRL SAID NOTHING.

I LOOKED TO NAGATO.

FAR FROM IT, HE'D EVEN MENTIONED SOMETHING ABOUT YASUMI TELLING HER TO GO.

AND KOIZUMI HAD SAID THAT THERE'D BEEN NO CHANGE TO THE α-ROUTE NAGATO.

I WAS SURE THAT SHE'D BEEN ONE OF THOSE FIGURES ON THE ROOF.

WHAT REASON WAS THE REASON THE TEST APPEARED "BACK THERE?"

I'M GLAD IT'S SOMETHING USEFUL (I HOPE)

YES!

SHALL WE GO, ASAHINA-SAN?

AND SHE SEEMED PLEASED THAT THERE WAS SOMETHING USEFUL FOR HER TO DO.

BUT FIRST ...

ASAHINA-SAN.

DO YOU HAVE ANY SIBLINGS?

A YOUNGER BROTHER, PERHAPS?

HEE-HEE!

INFOR-MATION ABOUT MY FAMILY...

...IS CLASSIFIED AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL!

I'LL BET.

HER WINK WAS PERFECT, AS ALWAYS.

MAYBE I EXERCISED TOO MUCH. THIS TIME I WAS FINALLY STARTING TO GET USED TO THE TEAM.
THE WEIGHTLESS FEELING SOON PASSED.
SO THE TIME TRAVEL APPLIED WAS SHORTER THIS?
OWW
IN ANY CASE, THERE I WAS, ON MY BED.

SURPRISED? WELL, I'M HOME, BUDDY.

SORRY FOR JUST APPEARING LIKE THAT.

HEY, SHAMI-SEN.

GA (GRP)

FIRST I HAD TO CHECK THE TIME.

...I RETURNED TO MY ROOM.

ON A DAY IN EARLY APRIL, A FRIDAY, 8PM...

SHA (SHIFF)

JUST TWO HOURS EARLIER, I'D BEEN INVOLVED IN A DESPERATE STRUGGLE FOR THE FATE OF THE WORLD, OR THE FUTURE.

IF I WERE TO TELL ANYONE ABOUT IT, THE ONLY PERSON WHO WOULD BELIEVE ME OTHER THAN THE PEOPLE WHO WERE THERE WAS PROBABLY SASAKI.

NOT THAT IT WAS A STORY I PARTICULARLY WANTED TO BROADCAST.

GUESS I'LL TAKE A BATH AND HEAD TO BED.

WELL.

I DECIDED TO TAKE ONE DAY OUT OF THE WEEKEND TO CLEAR MY HEAD.

I'D FINALLY MANAGED TO RETURN TO MY NORMAL LIFE.

THE SURPRISE OF HARUHI SUZUMIYA XIII : END

MAYBE I'D IMAGINED HAVING TWO SEPARATE TIMELINES RUNNING IN MY MIND.

FOR ME, THE TWO HISTORIES WERE NOW A REALITY.

IT'S NOT THE CASE THAT ONE OF THEM IS TRUE AND ONE IS FALSE.

AND TIME KEEPS FLOWING IMPARTIALLY ON.

WITH THE BEGINNING OF THE WEEK, PEACE HAD RETURNED TO THE WORLD.

(SO LONG AS YOU'RE LIVING A NORMAL LIFE, ANYWAY.)

A new Monday succeeded that busy, eventful week.

But I wasn't the only one who'd gone through this dissociated series of events.

NO MATTER HOW MUCH I RETHINK THEM, THERE ARE NO DISCREPANCIES BETWEEN THE TWO.

I HAD BOTH SETS OF MEMORIES IN MY HEAD—ONE OF HER FELLED BY THE FEVER AND ANOTHER WHERE SHE WAS FINE.

NAGATO RECOVERED AND BEGAN ATTENDING SCHOOL AS THOUGH NOTHING HAD HAPPENED.

AND THE TWO LAYERS OF MEMORY AREN'T CONFUSED AT ALL.

WHEREAS IN THE β VERSION, MY MEMORIES OF CONVERSATIONS WITH SASAKI ARE VERY CLEAR.

IN THE α VERSION, I HAVE MEMORIES OF YASUMI AND EVERYONE ELSE.

IF I REALLY FOCUSED, I COULD MANAGE TO CONNECT THE TWO TIMELINES AS I RECALLED THEM.

IT WAS LIKE THE NON-INTERSECTION OF A DOUBLE-HELIX STAIRCASE.

WHEN I THOUGHT OF ONE, THAT WAS ALL I WAS CONSCIOUS OF.

I WAS REALLY SURPRISED.

APPARENTLY SHE'S STILL IN MIDDLE SCHOOL!

SHE SAID SHE WAS REALLY SORRY BUT THAT SHE HAD TO DECLINE HER BRIGADE MEMBERSHIP.

SO THAT EXPLAINED IT.

SORRY...

OH-HO.

ABOUT YESTERDAY...

...YASUMI-CHAN CAME BY MY HOUSE.

TA (TUP)

TA

TA

TURNS OUT HER SISTER GRADUATED FROM NORTH HIGH, SO YASUMI BORROWED HER UNIFORM.

SHE JUST HAD TO JOIN THE SOS BRIGADE.

SHE'LL PROBABLY BE ABLE TO GET ADMITTED TO NORTH HIGH WITHOUT ANY TROUBLE ...

GUDEN (CLATTER)

...BUT CAN YOU BELIEVE SHE'D PULL A PRANK LIKE THAT?

AND THE WEATHER'S NICE TODAY, SO I GUESS I CAN'T COMPLAIN.

AND THE BRIGADE ENTRANCE EXAMI-NATIONS WERE FUN.

BUT YUKI'S BETTER NOW.

THAT'S WHY SHE HADN'T BEEN IN THE CLASSROOMS WHEN I'D GONE ALL OVER THE SCHOOL LOOKING FOR HER.

WHAT CLASS WAS SHE IN?

SO SHE HADN'T EVEN BEEN A NORTH HIGH STUDENT.

WELL, THAT'S WHAT HARUHI CLAIMS, SO I'LL JUST LEAVE IT AT THAT.

HAD YASUMI ACTUALLY GONE TO MEET HARUHI?

I FORGOT TO ASK WHAT YEAR SHE IS IN MIDDLE SCHOOL.

IT MIGHT TAKE TWO OR THREE YEARS.

WON'T SHE BE PROP-ERLY ENTERING HIGH SCHOOL NEXT YEAR, THOUGH?

JUST RE-ADMIT HER TO THE BRIGADE WITHOUT ANOTHER EXAM WHEN THAT TIME COMES.

MUKU CMPHD

BY THE WAY.

SHE WAS GETTING MORE PERCEP-TIVE WITH AGE.

AND SHE'S TOTALLY RIGHT

DID YOU MEET WITH ANYONE THIS SATURDAY? OR, LIKE, MAKE SOME KIND OF PLAN BEHIND MY BACK...

YOU'RE NOT HIDING ANYTHING FROM ME, ARE YOU?

I SEE.

THAT'S FINE, THEN.

I DIDN'T DO ANY-THING.

I SLEPT FOR HALF OF SATURDAY AND TOOK SHAMISEN IN FOR IMMUNIZATIONS ON SUNDAY.

...WHAT DO YOU THINK YOUR FUTURE SELF WOULD SAY?

SAY THERE WAS A TIME MACHINE.

IF THE YOU FROM A FEW YEARS IN THE FUTURE MET YOUR CURRENT SELF...

HEY, HARUHI.

HU■?

I GUESS IN A FEW YEARS I'LL BE A COLLEGE STUDENT.

SO, PROB-ABLY...

...I'D BE THE ONE TO LOOK AT MY FUTURE SELF AND TELL HER SHE HASN'T CHANGED AT ALL.

BUT WHY DO YOU ASK?

I GOT TO THINKING ABOUT WHAT KIND OF PERSON MY FUTURE SELF IS GOING TO BE.

I WAS JUST WON-DERING.

I MEAN, I'M PRETTY CONFIDENT THAT MY VALUES AREN'T GOING TO CHANGE IN JUST TWO OR THREE YEARS.

I CAN'T ARGUE WITH THAT.

OR ARE YOU SAYING YOU'RE MATURE ENOUGH NOW TO LECTURE YOUR MIDDLE SCHOOL SELF?

WELL, DON'T WORRY.

YOU'LL PROBABLY BE THE SAME AS YOU ARE NOW.

THAT GOES FOR MY FUTURE SELF TOO.

I HOPE YOU'LL GIVE ME THE GENTLE SMILE I REMEMBER SEEING.

BUT HARUHI.

WHEN MY JUST-BARELY SECOND-YEAR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT SELF TRAVELS THROUGH TIME AND MEETS THE FUTURE YOU, I HOPE YOU'LL BE NICE TO ME.

MY MEMORIES OF EACH PERSON IN THE SPLIT WORLD HAD BEEN FUSED SUCH THAT THERE WEREN'T ANY INCONSIS-TENCIES.

THEN...

SO BESIDES THE SOS BRIGADE, THE ONLY PARTS THAT WERE DIFFERENT INVOLVED TANIGUCHI, KUNIKIDA, SASAKI, AND TACHIBANA.

OF COURSE, MOST PARTS OF EACH WORLD, BOTH α AND β, WERE THE SAME.

KNOCK IT OFF

I GUESS I MIGHT AS WELL TALK ABOUT THAT.

INCIDEN-TALLY...

...JUST AS THE EVER-PERCEPTIVE HARUHI HAD GUESSED, I HAD HOSTED KOIZUMI AND NAGATO ON SUNDAY.

PACHIN (WINK)

WE ENDED UP WITH ZERO NEW CLUB MEM-BERS.

THAT SETTLED THINGS NICELY.

I HAD A PILE OF QUESTIONS I WANTED TO ASK THEM.

WHAT HAD HAPPENED IN THE CLUB ROOM AFTER THAT? HOW HAD THE TWO WORLDS BEEN RECON-NECTED?

ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED AFTER HARUHI AND I FELL INTO THE CELESTIAL'S PALM AND GOT SENT INTO THE FUTURE.

IT'S YUKI AND KOIZUMI-KUN! WELCOME!

HEY!

WHAT HAPPENED TO FUJIWARA AND KUYOH AND TACHIBANA?

AND JUST WHO WAS YASUMI WATAHASHI?

AW, GEEZ!

SHOO, SHOO!

SO WHERE SHALL I BEGIN?

WHAT?

GI (KREAK)

I KNEW INSTANTLY WHERE SUZUMIYA-SAN HAD GONE, BUT...

BOFU! (WHUMP)

YOU AND SUZUMIYA-SAN BOTH DISAPPEARED RIGHT IN FRONT OF US.

BUT FIRST, I'D LIKE TO HEAR YOUR SIDE OF THE STORY.

BUT THAT'S NOT MUCH OF A PROB-LEM.

SHE MIGHT HAVE FELT FAINTLY UNEASY.

JUST LIKE THAT.

IN BOTH α AND β, SHE RETURNED HOME LIKE NORMAL.

SHE WAS IN HER HOUSE.

...NAGATO.

IS YOUR FEVER DOWN?

DID YOU MANAGE TO COMPLETE ANY, UH...

...HIGH-LEVEL COMMU-NICATION OR WHAT-EVER?

THAT HAS [redacted] TEMPORARILY ABORTED.

BOTH THE DATA OVERMIND AND THE HEAVENLY CANOPY DOMAIN...

...DETERMINED THAT EACH HAD RECEIVED THE MINIMUM NECESSARY AMOUNT OF INFORMATION.

NADEN (PET)

NADEN

...ARE TO PASSIVELY OBSERVE AND REPORT ON HARUHI SUZUMIYA AND KUYOH SUOH.

MY NEW ORDERS ...

I HAVE BEEN RELIEVED OF THAT DUTY.

MY ABILITY TO RELAY INFORMATION HAS BEEN RECOGNIZED AS INSUFFICIENTLY ACCURATE FOR THE TASK.

NOT NECESSARILY.

WE HAVE MOVED ON TO PHASE TWO OF A PLAN TO ACHIEVE MUTUAL UNDER-STANDING.

SO THE HEAVENLY CANOPY DOMAIN STOPPED MESSING WITH YOU, AND YOU GOT BETTER?

ANYWAY, I'M JUST HAPPY YOU'RE BACK TO NORMAL.

...BUT THEY WILL UNDOUBTEDLY PERFORM BETTER THAN I DID.

I HAVE NOT BEEN INFORMED WHICH INDIVIDUAL WILL BE SUCCEEDING ME...

I WAS MERELY JUDGED INSUFFICIENT FOR THE TASK OF CONDUCTING COMMUNICATION FOR PHASE ONE.

SHE HAS NOT DISAP-PEARED

SHE IS CURRENTLY ATTENDING KOUYOUEN GIRLS' ACADEMY.

WAIT A SECOND.

DOES THAT MEAN KUYOH IS STILL IN THIS WORLD?

IS SHE FEELING ▮ ABOUT IT?

THEY SHOULD'VE JUST LET KIMIDORI-SAN HANDLE IT FROM THE BEGINNING.

AND FUJI-WARA?

HER PRIMARY GOAL IS TO ACHIEVE AUTONOMY, WHICH WILL TAKE SOME TIME.

...MAYBE IT WOULD BE MORE ACCURATE TO SAY THAT HE'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO TRAVEL BACK TO OUR PRESENT AGAIN.

OR...

I DOUBT WE'LL SEE HIM AGAIN.

ASAHINA THE ELDER EXPLAINED IT ALL TO ME.

SUZUMIYA-SAN CREATED A NEW TIME FAULT.

IT SEEMS THAT HIS FUTURE TIMELINE WAS SEVERED.

IT WAS A RATHER FAMILIAR SCENE FOR ME

AFTER THAT, THE CLOSED SPACE COMPLETELY COLLAPSED.

IMMEDIATELY AFTER YOU AND SUZUMIYA DISAPPEARED, THE CELESTIAL STARTED TO DISINTEGRATE.

SHE SEEMED SADDENED BY WHAT HAD HAPPENED TO FUJIWARA.

ONLY MYSELF, ASAHINA THE ELDER, AND KYOKO TACHIBANA WERE LEFT.

SO KUYOH AND FUJI-WARA WERE GONE?

WHAT DID YOU TALK ABOUT WITH ASAHINA THE ELDER?

THAT'S ABOUT ALL I CAN SAY.

...AND THAT HE HAD PROBABLY BEEN USED TO PROTECT THE TIMELINE HE WAS ATTACHED TO.

SHE DID SAY THAT HIS ACTIONS WERE HALF-IMPULSIVE ...

WAS IT SOME KIND OF PROBLEM FOR ASAHINA THE ELDER'S FUTURE?

I WONDER WHAT CHANGED FROM WHEN THEY WANTED TO INSTALL SASAKI AS THE NEW GOD.

AND SHE SOUNDED SINCERE.

...IT WOULD ALL END UP CONVERGING ANYWAY.

ASAHINA-SAN DID LET SLIP THAT EVEN IF THE SPACE-TIME CONTINUUM WERE COMPLETELY OVER-WRITTEN FROM THIS TIME PLANE...

I FOLLOWED HER, BUT SHE WAS GONE.

I ASSUME SHE RETURNED TO THE FUTURE.

...GAVE ME A SAD SMILE AND LEFT THE ROOM.

AFTER THAT, SHE...

SHE HELD HER HEAD FOR A WHILE.

KYOKO TACHIBANA WAS STUNNED INTO SILENCE.

I SUPPOSE HER BURDEN WAS A HEAVY ONE.

SHE WENT HOME, TOTALLY DE-PRESSED.

BUT EVENTU-ALLY, SHE CALMED DOWN AND JUST SLUMPED THERE.

SHE SEEMED DEEPLY DISAP-POINTED.

SHE SAID ...

SHE TEXTED ME SOON AFTER.

YOU LADIES' MAN, YOU

(BEEP) (BEEP)

BUT BEFORE WE PARTED WAYS...

...I EXCHANGED NUMBERS AND ADDRESSES WITH HER.

...THAT FOR VARIOUS REASONS, SHE WAS WITH-DRAWING FROM ALL THIS.

SHE SAID SHE SAW VERY CLEARLY THAT SHE COULDN'T KEEP UP WITH THESE ALIENS AND TIME TRAVELERS.

THOUGH APPARENTLY SHE WAS STILL GOING TO TRY TO FIGURE OUT SOMETHING SHE COULD DO.

DON'T WORRY.

IF SHE APPEARS AGAIN, WE'LL TAKE THE NECES-SARY MEA-SURES.

CHA (CHAK)

YUKI'S HERE!

KYON-KUN!

I DOUBTED SASAKI WOULD BE SWEET-TALKED BY KYOKO TACHIBANA ANYTIME SOON.

Bye Bye...

YOU SEEM PRETTY HAPPY

I WONDER HOW THAT WILL GO.

SHE'S GOING TO TRY TO REMAIN SASAKI'S FRIEND.

MY GOOD-NESS.

PA (PUFF)

LET'S PLAY!

C'MON SHAMI, YOU TOO!

SUKKU (STAND)

PERHAPS SHE'D READ THE SITUATION.

OR PERHAPS PLAYING WITH A CAT AND A GIRL WAS JUST MORE INTERESTING.

NAGATO HAD BEEN PETTING THE CAT THE ENTIRE TIME KOIZUMI AND I WERE TALKING.

BUT WHY DID HARUHI'S CLOSED SPACE ALSO APPEAR?

I KNOW THAT THAT WAS SASAKI'S CLOSED SPACE BACK THERE.

THANKS TO HER, KOIZUMI AND I COULD NOW SPEAK ONE-ON-ONE.

THAT'S WEIRD, THOUGH.

AT THAT POINT, HARUHI WAS OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL, AND SHE SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN AWARE OF WHAT WAS HAPPENING TO US.

THERE'S NO ROOM FOR DOUBT THERE.

TO LET ME IN.

AND TO BE ABLE TO CREATE A CELESTIAL.

SUZUMIYA-SAN INTENTIONALLY MADE THAT HAPPEN.

... IF I TOLD YOU SHE WAS FULLY AWARE?

WHAT WOULD YOU SAY...

YASUMI WATA-HASHI, EH?

WHAT WAS SHE, ANY-WAY?

THERE WAS SOMEONE ELSE BESIDES US IN THAT SPACE, YOU KNOW.

SHE SUMMONED YOU AND ME TO THE CLUB ROOM.

IT WAS EXPLAINED TO US FROM THE VERY BEGINNING.

QUITE SIMPLY, IN FACT.

SHE IS AN ALTERNATE SELF CREATED BY SUZUMIYA-SAN.

SHE IS HARUHI SUZU-MIYA-SAN.

wata hashi
yasumizu

IF WE WRITE OUT THE KANJI FOR "YASUMI" AS "YASUMIZU," AS IT SHOULD BE WRITTEN...

CHA (CHIK)

IT'S A VERY SIMPLE ANA-GRAM.

"WATASHI WA SUZUMIYA." I AM SUZUMIYA.

wata ha shi
yasumizu

watashi ha
suzumiya

THAT'S WHY THE WORLD WAS SPLIT.

ONE WAS THE WORLD AS IT ORIGINALLY WAS.

THE OTHER WAS A WORLD THAT DIDN'T EXIST.

SUZUMIYA UNCON-SCIOUSLY USED HER ABILITIES.

AS A PRECAUTION, YOU SEE.

DESPITE BEING UNAWARE OF IT, SHE SENSED THE DANGER.

ESSENTIALLY, SHE SAVED BOTH YOU AND NAGATO!..AND THE WORLD.

IF SHE HADN'T SPLIT REALITY, OUR ENEMIES WOULD'VE BEEN ABLE TO DO WITH YOU AS THEY PLEASED.

THIS WAS SOME KIND OF MIRACLE. I SUPPOSE YOU COULD CALL IT AN UNCONSCIOUS PREDICTION.

...AT SOME POINT, SHE GUESSED WHAT WAS GOING TO HAPPEN.

AS FOR WHEN IT BEGAN, I CAN ONLY SPECULATE, BUT...

INTO A WORLD WHERE SASAKI SPOKE TO ME AND ONE WHERE YASUMI DID.

IT'S ME. M-E, ME.

I COULD ONLY ASSUME THAT THE WORLD SPLIT THE MOMENT I PUT THE RECEIVER TO MY EAR.

α

β

SO FAR AS I COULD REMEMBER, THE WORLD HAD BEEN CONTINUOUS UNTIL THAT MOMENT IN THE BATH.

NOT ONLY DOES SHE NOT KNOW HER OWN POWER...

... SHE MAY NOT EVEN WANT TO KNOW, TO SAY NOTHING OF WHETHER THE KNOWL-EDGE IS ACCESSIBLE TO HER IN THE FIRST PLACE.

THAT'S WHAT I'VE CALLED THE α ROUTE, WHERE HER OTHER SELF APPEARED.

SUZUMIYA-SAN WAS AWARE THAT A FUTURE AWAITED IN WHICH BOTH YOU AND NAGATO WERE IN DANGER.

SO THAT'S WHERE SHE MADE HER MOVE.

SHE IS NO MORE THAN A DREAM THAT DISAP-PEARS UPON AWAKE-NING.

AND WHO KNOWS, WE MAY HAVE BEEN IN A DREAM-WORLD CREATED BY SUZUMIYA...

...A SURREAL WORLD WHERE NEAR IMPOSSIBLE BECOMES REALITY

YASUMI WATAHASHI WAS SUZUMIYA-SAN'S UNCONSCIOUS INSTANTIATION.

...SUZUMIYA-SAN HERSELF HAS NO KNOWLEDGE OF THAT.

EVEN IF YASUMI WATAHASHI DID NOT DISAPPEAR BUT INSTEAD WAS REINTEGRATED INTO SUZUMIYA-SAN...

WE KNOW FROM PERSONAL EXPERIENCE THAT IT'S POSSIBLE TO SPLIT THE TIMELINE...

WHAT ABOUT THE RELATION-SHIP BETWEEN FUJIWARA AND ASAHINA THE ELDER?

OR RATHER, THE TIME TRAVELERS' THEORY OF TIME.

HOWEVER, WE DON'T KNOW HOW THAT AFFECTED ASAHINA AND FUJIWARA'S FUTURE.

...THANKS TO SUZUMIYA'S MANUAL ALTERATION OF SPACE-TIME.

IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE "CLASSIFIED INFORMATION" IS THE ONLY REASON TIME TRAVELERS DON'T TALK ABOUT THEIR TRUE FEELINGS.

THEY COULD HAVE BEEN FROM THE SAME FUTURE OR INDIVIDUALS FROM DIFFERENT REALITIES...

...OR ONE OR BOTH OF THEM COULD HAVE BEEN LYING TO US.

THERE'S NO WAY TO KNOW FOR SURE.

BUT THE DIVERGING ROUTES TO THOSE DESTI-NATIONS ARE LIMITED...

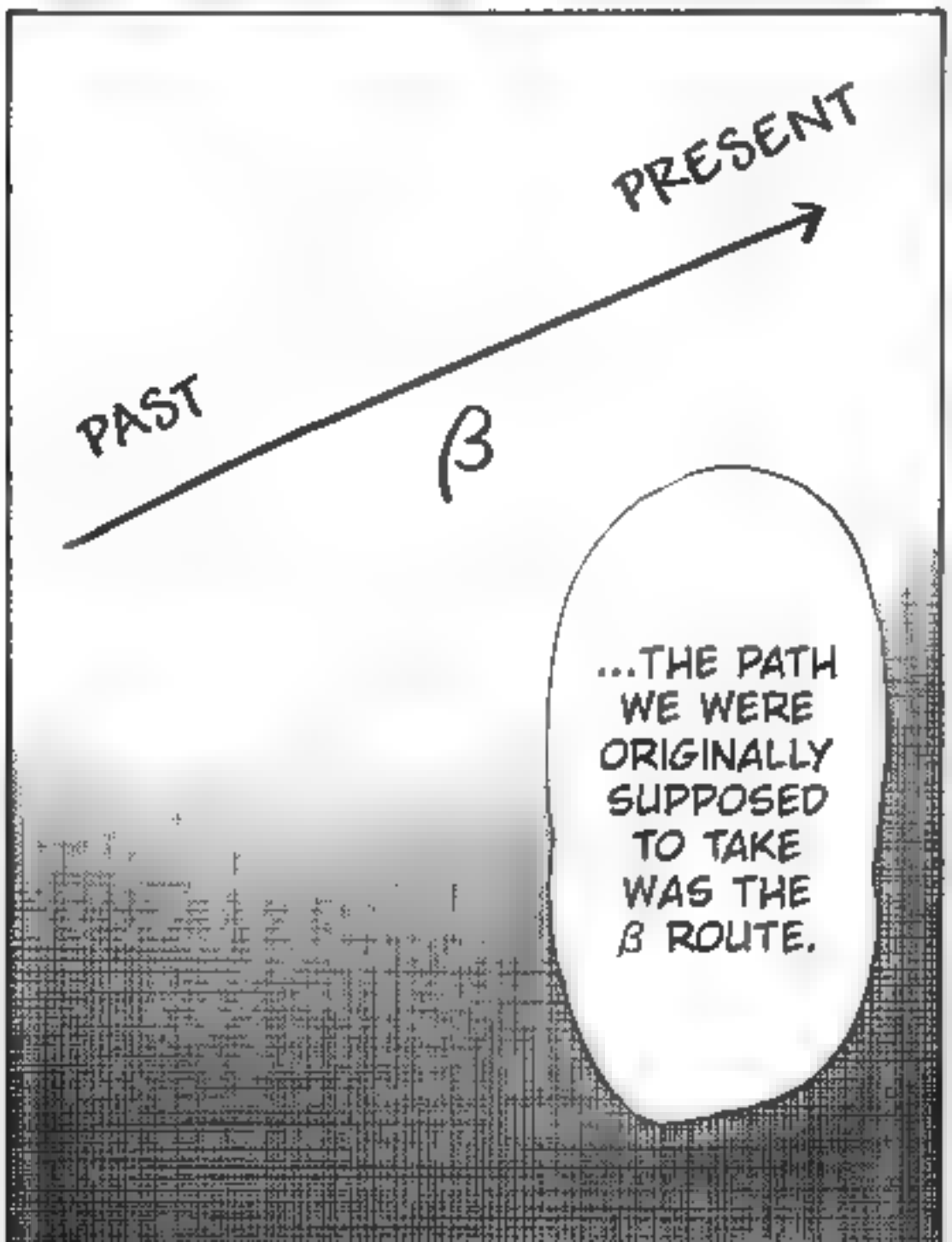
...AND THEY WILL EVENTUALLY RE-CONVERGE ...

THIS IS ONLY MY INTUITION, BUT...

...I FEEL THAT THE FUTURE IS SPLIT INTO MANY DIFFERENT PATHS.

AND WE'VE BECOME CONSCIOUS OF ONE SUCH OCCURRENCE.

...TO A SINGLE PATH.



...THE PATH WE WERE ORIGINALLY SUPPOSED TO TAKE WAS THE β ROUTE.

WITHOUT THE α TIMELINE, WHO'S TO SAY WHAT MIGHT'VE HAPPENED ?

KYU

KYU

KYU

...WHICH LED US TO WHERE WE ARE NOW.

ZUMOMOMO (VROOOM)

BIBI (KRAKK)

INTERFERENCE

α

α & β

PAST

FUTURE

β

BUT THEN SUZUMIYA-SAN INTERVENED ...

ASAHINA

FUJIWARA

ON THE OTHER HAND, IF ASAHINA-SAN AND FUJIWARA'S FUTURES ARE SEPARATE...

KYU

KYU

DIVERGING THANKS TO SOME EVENT, THEN CONVERGING AGAIN.

...THEN IT WOULD BE SOMETHING LIKE THIS.

ASAHINA

FUJIWARA

?

?

?

?

TO GUIDE THE FLOW OF TIME SUCH THAT IT LEADS TO HER FUTURE.

THERE IS ALSO THE POSSIBILITY THAT THERE ARE FUTURES THAT DO NOT CONVERGE, REMAINING FRAGMENTED.

ASAHINA-SAN MAY HAVE COME BACK IN ORDER TO PREVENT HER OWN WORLD FROM TAPERING OFF.

I'VE ALWAYS TAKEN A SKEPTICAL APPROACH TO THE HARUHI-AS-GOD THEORY...

IT'S A MIND-BOGGLING THOUGHT.

GOOD GRIEF... AND SHE WAS INTERFERING WITH THIS STUFF?

IS HARUHI JUST ALL-POWERFUL?

...BUT I MAY HAVE TO REVISE MY OPINION.

INSTEAD, SHE'S EVOLVING.

I WAS VERY WRONG TO SAY SHE WAS GRADUALLY LOSING HER POWER.

PSYCHO-ANALYSIS OF SUZUMIYA-SAN IS BEYOND MY ABILITIES.

THERE'S EVEN THE POSSIBILITY THAT SHE'S ABLE TO CONSCIOUSLY CONTROL HER POWER.

GO READ UP ON YOUR MY-THOL-OGY.

ALL THE MORESO IF SHE'S UNDERGONE SOME KIND OF APOTHEOSIS.

ALTHOUGH, SHE DOES STILL REMAIN UNAWARE... WHICH IS WHY IT'S SO AWE-INSPIRING.

THE ACTIONS OF THE CELESTIAL SUGGEST AS MUCH.

IF THERE'S ONE THING TO BE LEARNED FROM THE HUMAN TRAITS THEY SOMETIMES SHOW...

BUT IT'S NOT THE CASE THAT THEY HAVE NO AFFECTION FOR HUMANITY.

SOMETIMES EVEN UNREASONABLE.

THE WILL AND WORDS OF THE GODS ARE ALWAYS MYSTERIOUS AND CAPRICIOUS.

SO WHAT WOULD BE A GOD TO A GOD?

IT'S THAT THE GODS OF MYTH WERE CREATED BY HUMANS.

THE SURPRISE OF HARUHI SUZUMIYA XIV : END

I JUST ASSUMED THAT MORI-SAN WAS YOUR BOSS.

...YOU AND MORI-SAN... AND ARAKAWA-SAN TOO, COME TO THINK OF IT—WHAT'S YOUR RELATION-SHIP?

THIS IS CHANGING THE SUBJECT, BUT...

WE'RE ALL COL-LEAGUES WITH THE SAME GOAL.

AS SUCH, WE DON'T HAVE A HIERARCHY.

NOW WHY WOULD YOU HAVE AS-SUMED THAT?

DO YOU HAVE ANY PROBLEM WITH THE AGENCY?

...IT'S ABOUT THE FLOWER THAT YASUMI BROUGHT TO DECORATE THE ROOM.

IT TURNS OUT IT'S A COMPLETELY NEW SPECIES.

THIS IS A TRIVIAL MATTER, BUT...

AH, THERE IS ONE OTHER THING.

I HOPE WE CAN MEET HER AGAIN SOMEHOW.

DESPITE BEING HARUHI'S ALTER EGO, SHE MIGHT JUST BE A LITTLE MORE CHARMING THAN THE ORIGINAL.

AH, BUT I SUPPOSE IT'S A BIT RUDE TO SAY SO.

HA HA ...

SHE KEPT HER PROMISE.

SHE WAS TOLD TO BRING SOMETHING INTERESTING TO THE BRIGADE.

YES!!

THE SOS BRIGADE!

SAVE THE WORLD BY OVERLOADING IT WITH FUN, HARUHI SUZUMIYA BRIGADE!

FROM NOW ON, THIS IS OUR CLUB ROOM!

ONE YEAR SINCE THEN.

HOW MANY OTHER HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS COULD THERE BE, NATIONWIDE...

...WHOSE YEAR HAD BEEN AS UNBELIEVABLE AS MINE?

THE DAYS of SAGITTARIUS
© The Surprise of Haruhi Suzumiya XV

I MIGHT HAVE BEEN KILLED.

PROBABLY BY NONE OTHER THAN RYOUKO ASAKURA.

WHAT IF I HAD CHOSEN SASAKI?

WHAT IF I HAD JOINED UP WITH TACHIBANA, FUJIWARA, AND KUYOH'S FAKE SOS BRIGADE?

WHAT IF...

I STILL THINK ABOUT IT SOMETIMES.

I WAS FAR TOO DEEPLY INVOLVED WITH THE SOS BRIGADE.

THERE IS NO WAY I COULD HAVE.

BUT I DIDN'T DO IT.

WE WOULD JUMP OVER AS MANY BENT RAILS AS WE HAD TO.

SO I WAS GOING TO GO ON LIKE THIS,

AS FAR AS I WANTED TO.

I WANTED TO STAY LIKE THIS. AND I'M SURE THE OTHERS FELT THE SAME WAY.

I DIDN'T FEEL LIKE ASKING SOME OTHER UNSPECIFIED PERSON,

...ON UNTIL THE END OF TIME.

たばこ

WE'D BUILD OUR OWN TRACKS AS WE WENT...

HEY, SASAKI.

HEY, KYON.

I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT COME HERE.

I HEARD MOST OF THE DETAILS FROM TACHIBANA-SAN.

GASHA KACHIKO

I'VE BEEN RELEASED FROM GOD DUTY APPARENTLY.

FOR ME TOO.

I FEEL BAD FOR FUJIWARA, BUT IT SOUNDS LIKE THINGS WORKED OUT ALL RIGHT.

IT HAPPENED ABOUT TWO WEEKS AGO... SOMEONE CONFESSED THEIR FEELINGS FOR ME.

OH, THAT?

THAT'S QUITE A REACTION.

THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO ASK YOU.

WHEN YOU CAME TO MY HOUSE, YOU SAID THERE WAS ANOTHER REASON FOR IT.

WHAT WAS IT?

IT WAS A BOY FROM MY SCHOOL.

I STILL HAVEN'T GIVEN HIM A PROPER REPLY.

I COULDN'T HELP BUT FEEL LIKE, WOW, THERE'S NO ACCOUNTING FOR TASTE.

IN OTHER WORDS, I CAME FOR ADVICE ON MY LOVE LIFE.

SURPRISING, EH?

... YEAH, KINDA.

SA-SAKI.

I DIDN'T WANT TO ADD ANY MORE NOISE TO YOUR LIFE.

I DECIDED THAT IT REALLY WAS THE SORT OF PROBLEM I NEEDED TO SOLVE MYSELF.

IT'S FINE.

SORRY I CAN'T BE OF MUCH USE.

EVEN IN A DIFFERENT CLASS, I COULD FEEL THE LIGHT SHE GAVE OFF.

SHE WAS LIKE THE SUN.

WE WERE ALWAYS IN DIFFERENT CLASSES, BUT EVEN I COULD TELL HOW MUCH SHE STOOD OUT.

I NEVER KNEW THAT.

SUZU-MIYA-SAN AND I WENT TO THE SAME ELE-MEN-TARY SCHOOL.

DOES THAT MAKE SENSE, KYON?

BUT IF THE SUN DISAPPEARS, WE LOSE THE WARMTH OF ITS LIGHT.

IF YOU STARE AT THE SUN TOO LONG, YOU'LL HURT YOUR EYES.

LONELY, BUT ALSO RELIEVED ...

WHEN IT TURNED OUT WE WERE GOING TO DIFFERENT MIDDLE SCHOOLS, I FELT KIND OF CONFLICTED ABOUT IT.

SO SUZUMIYA DIDN'T RECOGNIZE ME WHEN YOU INTRODUCED US.

THANKS TO SOME FAMILY ISSUES, MY LAST NAME CHANGED.

IF SHE'D RECOGNIZED ME NOW, I FEEL LIKE IT WOULD JUST HAVE MADE ME SELF-CONSCIOUS.

THAT'S FOR THE BEST, THOUGH.

I'D GROWN MY HAIR OUT TO TRY TO LOOK MORE LIKE HER, BUT THEN I CUT IT.

THIS PARTICULAR CONFESSION IS PRETTY EMBARRASSING FOR ME.

SO KEEP IT A SECRET, WOULD YOU?

I HAD NO IDEA.

IN THE END, I'M ONLY AWARE OF THE RELATION-SHIPS IN MY IMMEDIATE SURROUND-INGS.

THERE'S NO WAY FOR ME TO EVER RECOGNIZE SUCH UNKNOWABLE THINGS AS REAL.

WHAT EXISTS AT THE EDGE OF THE UNIVERSE ...

WHAT THE UNIVERSE IS IN THE FIRST PLACE...

WHAT'S BEYOND THE COSMOS ...

IN-DEED.

IT'S TRUE THAT AS HUMANS, OUR KNOWLEDGE IS FINITE.

SO LONG AS THERE'S A LIFE FORM SOMEWHERE TO OBSERVE THIS WORLD...

...THEN WE COULD CALL THAT BEING A GOD.

THAT IS WHAT I THINK —

BUT JUST BECAUSE YOU CAN'T RECOGNIZE SOMETHING DOESN'T MEAN THE ANSWER DOESN'T EXIST.

OR SO I'D SAY...

...BUT I KNOW YOU'D NEVER WISH FOR THAT.

THERE'S A 0% CHANCE.

IF YOU LIKE, KYON, I'LL STAND IN FOR SUZUMIYA-SAN WHENEVER YOU WANT.

WEREN'T YOU THE ONE WHO SAID INACTION WAS A VIRTUE?

I'M REALLY NOT CUT OUT FOR THIS GOD STUFF.

DOING ANY-THING ON A COSMIC SCALE WAS ASKING FOR TROUBLE.

AND IN THE END, I DIDN'T DO ANY-THING.

SHE RE-ALLY WAS AL-WAYS RIGHT.

I DIDN'T WANT TO JUST BECOME A SIMPLE BAD GUY.

YEAH.

I CAN'T BE ANY-ONE BESIDES ME.

NO MATTER HOW WISE OR CAPABLE YOU ARE.

THERE'S NO ROOM FOR CONSCIOUS INTER-VENTION.

NO ONE CAN PRETEND TO BE SUZUMIYA-SAN.

YOU SEEM TO HAVE STEADILY INCREASED THE NUMBER OF LOVELY FRIENDSHIPS YOU ENJOY AND DISCOVERED QUITE A BIT OF HAPPINESS THERE.

APOLO-GIES. I'LL BE DONE SOON

YOU'VE GOTTEN PRETTY FAR AWAY FROM TALKING ABOUT THE CONFESSION.

THEY'RE NOT EVEN PAYING MUCH ATTENTION TO HOW I TALK.

IT JUST GETS VAGUELY IGNORED.

SO I GUESS HITTING A WALL IS ABOUT ALL I CAN EXPECT.

I REALLY DON'T HAVE THE LUXURY OF SLACKING THROUGH MY CLASSES THE WAY WE DID IN MIDDLE SCHOOL.

BUT I'VE BEEN THINKING ...

...I OUGHT TO FOCUS ON MY STUDIES.

I DIDN'T REALLY DO THAT WILLINGLY. BUT..

YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO EVER TREATED ME NORMALLY.

THAT'S WHY I FOUND YOUR COMPANY SO AGREE-ABLE.

THAT'S WHY, KYON...

YOU JUST KEPT YOUR DISTANCE BUT ALSO PAID ATTENTION TO ME...

YOU MIGHT'VE WANTED TO SAY SOME-THING, BUT YOU NEVER DID.

OUR LUNCHES TOGETHER WERE MORE PRECIOUS TO ME THAN ANY-THING.

THAT'S TRUE.

NO ONE'S GETTING THE WRONG IDEA.

ANYBODY MISUNDERSTANDING HAS SOMETHING SCREWY WITH THEM.

"HA-HA...

GOSH, IT REALLY SOUNDS LIKE I'M CONFESSING TO YOU, DOESN'T IT?

IT WASN'T MY INTENTION TO BE MISUNDERSTOOD, THOUGH.

LATER, OLD FRIEND.

I'LL SEE YOU AT THE NEXT REUNION.

I'M GLAD WE COULD TALK.

WELL, I'VE GOT TO GET TO CRAM SCHOOL.

TA (TUP) 9 "1

"HEY, OLD FRIEND."

NO MATTER HOW MANY YEARS IT WOULD BE UNTIL OUR NEXT MEETING, SOMETHING ABOUT HER RECEDING FORM MADE ME THINK SHE'D ALREADY DECIDED ON WHAT SHE'D SAY WHEN SHE SAW ME NEXT.

BUN (BUN)

BUN (BOUNCE)

GOOD MORNING, TSURUYA-SAN.

AND THE NEXT TUES-DAY.

HYO! (PEER)

HEYA THERE, KYON-KUN OL' BUDDY!

TATA (TA-TUP)

GOOD OLD TSURUYA-SAN.

IN A WAY, SHE HAD EVEN SHARPER INSTINCTS THAN HARUHI HERSELF.

R... REALLY?

HYOHOHO♡

LOOKING NICE AND CLEAR TODAY, EH?

LOOKS LIKE WHATEVER WAS BUGGING YOU'S GONE FLYING AWAY!

I CAN'T GET A STRAIGHT ANSWER OUT OF KOIZUMI OR NAGATO.

I WANT TO HEAR YOUR HONEST OPINION ON THE MATTER.

MY IMPRESSION'S NOT GONNA DO YOU MUCH GOOD.

IS SOMETHING UP?

WHAT KIND OF GUY DO YOU THINK I AM?

HEY, TSURUYA-SAN.

...A WELL-LIKED MINOR CHARACTER.

I GUESS YOU'RE LIKE...

キラン★

KIRAN (SPARKLE)

UM, YOU'RE NICE, AND TOLERANT, AND, UM...

HEH, I'LL BET

GUESS YOU CAN'T REALLY ASK MIKURU EITHER.

SFX: WATA (FLAIL) WATA WATA

IT'S A LITTLE EMBARRASSING HAVING TO ASK—

...BUT WHEN SOMEONE DOES SAY SOMETHING, YOU ALWAYS COME BACK WITH JUST THE RIGHT RESPONSE.

YOU'RE NOT PARTICULARLY EASY TO TALK TO...

YOU DON'T HAVE ANYTHING A LITTLE MORE, WELL, FLATTERING?

THAT'S YOU, KYON!

BISHI (SNAP)

AND THERE AREN'T MANY PEOPLE LIKE THAT...

...WHO WILL JUST GIVE YOU A STRAIGHT ANSWER.

MUU (HMM)

YOU DON'T REALLY LAUGH WHEN SOMEONE SAYS SOMETHING FUNNY.

BUT YOU ALSO DON'T GET IRRITATED WHEN SOMEONE'S BEING BORING.

YEAH... I FIGURED.

BUT NOT THAT CUTE.

HA-HA...

SAY MORE!

PERFECT, TSURUYA-SAN!

WHOA

BOOO (STAAARE)

WELL... I GUESS YOU'RE DECENTLY CUTE.

YOU DON'T SEEM LIKE YOU TEASE MIKURU TOO MUCH.

I'D BE TOO SCARED TO.

YOU JUST GOTTA TRUST IN THAT!

BUT I DON'T THINK YOU'RE ON THE WRONG TRACK!

I WONDER ABOUT THAT.

IT SEEMS LIKE IT'S KINDA NORMAL FOR YOU NOW.

...NORMAL AS CAN BE.

FU FU FU.

YOU'RE JUST LIVING OUT YOUR HIGH SCHOOL LIFE HERE...

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT "NORMAL."

...NAGATOCCHI, AND KOIZUMI-KUN...

YOU'VE GOT HARU-NYAN AND MIKURU...

NYA HA HA HA HA!

I'LL BET!

I'M FED UP WITH NEW MEMBERS FOR NOW TOO.

WHAT ELSE DO YOU NEED?

NOTH-ING.

WE'RE DOING A BLOSSOM-VIEWING PARTY AT MY HOUSE AT THE END OF THE MONTH!

PI (POIT)

WELL, I GOTTA RUN!

BYE!

JUST LET ME KNOW ...

...WHEN YOU NEED THAT WEIRD TOY YOU LEFT AT MY HOUSE!

PAA (SPARKLE)

...BUT THAT SENSE OF INFERIORITY MADE ME STRANGELY HAPPY.

I PROBABLY NEVER WOULD BE...

I WAS NO MATCH FOR TSURUYA-SAN.

THE SURPRISE OF HARUHI SUZUMIYA XV : END

I HAVE NO INTEREST IN ORDINARY HUMANS!

HARUHI SUZUMIYA, FROM EAST CENTRAL MIDDLE SCHOOL.

ARMBAND: CHIEF

IF THERE ARE ANY ALIENS, TIME TRAVELERS, SLIDERS, OR ESPERS, COME SEE ME!

THAT IS ALL!

IF I COULD MEET MY PAST SELF, I WOULD WANT TO TELL HIM...

IT HAD BEEN OVER A YEAR SINCE I HADN'T BELIEVED IN ALIENS, TIME TRAVELERS, AND ESPERS.

BUT IN MY CHILDHOOD, I'D WANTED TO BELIEVE.

ALONG WITH YOUR DREAM OF MEETING AN INCOMPRE-HENSIBLE WOMAN...

...BE HAPPY! YOUR DREAM WILL COME TRUE!

AND THEN THIS YEAR —

I COULD COUNT ON HAVING PLENTY OF MATERIAL, AFTER ALL.

LOOKING BACK, IT MADE ME WONDER IF I SHOULD TURN MY EXPERIENCES INTO SOME KIND OF AUTO-BIOGRAPHY.

HEY, KYON.

INTRO-DUCE ME TO A GIRL, MAN.

HEY, LAY OFF!

GASHI (GRABB)

MORNIN', PAL.

CHICHICHI (CHIRP)

CHUN (TWEET)

SO INTRODUCE ME, MAN!

I HEARD FROM KUNIKIDA.

THIS SASAKI GIRL'S QUITE THE CUTIE, RIGHT?

YEAH?

NOBODY'S GOT MY BACK, I SWEAR ...

SHE'D JUST WIND UP DUMPING YOU WORSE THAN KUYOH DID!

KNOCK IT OFF. LISTEN UP, TANI-GUCHI.

YOU'RE NOT SASAKI'S TYPE!

PA (SMAK)

HAW HAW HAW!!

ゆっはっは?

I'M TOUCHED BY YOUR CONCERN.

JUST DO ME A FAVOR AND DON'T DATE ANY MORE WEIRDOS, OKAY?

NOT ONLY DO I NOT HAVE ANY WORTH-WHILE GIRLS AROUND ME, THERE AREN'T EVEN ANY DECENT GUYS.

YOU'RE GONNA REGRET DOING NOTHING BUT BABY-SITTING SUZUMIYA!

HEY, KYON.

FUN (HMPH)

EVEN YOU'RE DOING THE PHILOSOPHY THING, HUH?

...IT'S EVEN CLEARER AT THE MICRO LEVEL OF PARTICLES.

AND...

...THIS IS GOING TO INVOLVE SOME PHYSICS, BUT...

IT'S PRETTY COMMON FOR PEOPLE WITH SIMILAR CHARACTERISTICS TO REPEL EACH OTHER.

IT'S ACTUALLY TRUE THAT OPPOSITES ATTRACT.

NEUTRONS HAVE NO CHARGE.

SO BY THE ELECTRO-MAGNETIC CHARGES OF THE PROTONS, THEY SHOULD REPEL EACH OTHER.

NUCLEUS

ELECTRON

NEUTRON (NEUTRAL)

PROTON (POSITIVE CHARGE)

ASIDE FROM HYDROGEN, EVERY ATOM'S NUCLEUS HAS PROTONS AND NEUTRONS IN IT.

HE WAS JAPAN'S FIRST NOBEL PRIZE WINNER.

AT LEAST YOU KNOW THE NAME HIDEKI YUKAWA, RIGHT?

BEATS ME...

SO WHY IS IT THAT THESE PROTONS ACTUALLY WIND UP STICKING TOGETHER INSIDE THE NUCLEUS OF AN ATOM?

IN THE FOLLOWING YEARS, HIS THEORY WAS PROVEN TRUE.

WHICH OPENED UP THE ROAD TO THE DISCOVERY OF THE QUARK AND HADRON.

HE PREDICTED THAT THERE WAS AN EVEN SMALLER PARTICLE MUTUALLY BINDING ONE PROTON TO ANOTHER.

IS THAT HOW IT LOOKS?

BUT FAR FROM IT—YOU AND SUZUMIYA HAVE BECOME INSEPARABLE.

THAT'S STILL THE SENSE I GET.

I ASSUMED THAT YOUR RELATIONSHIP WOULD COLLAPSE

KYON.

I CAN'T HELP BUT SEE YOU AND SUZUMIYA-SAN AS VERY SIMILAR.

THIS IS WHERE THE NUCLEAR FORCE PROFESSOR YUKAWA DISCOVERED COMES IN.

BUT IT'S NOT ANY OF THE FOUR ELEMENTARY FORCES—

NOT THE STRONG NUCLEAR FORCE, WEAK NUCLEAR FORCE, ELECTRO-MAGNETISM, OR GRAVITY.

THE STRONG FORCE THAT KEEPS PROTONS FROM FLYING APART IS THE SAME THING KEEPING YOU AND HER TOGETHER.

CONSIDERING IT FROM THE STANDPOINT OF HUMAN RELATION-SHIPS...

...I THINK THE OTHERS AROUND YOU ARE SIGNIFICANT.

BUT THAT'S JUST WISHFUL SCIENTIFIC THINKING.

BUT MAYBE IT'S A NEW FORCE... A FIFTH ELEMENT.

IN ORDER TO DISRUPT THE BALANCE, ALL YOU CAN DO IS IMPACT EACH MUTUALLY-REINFORCING ELEMENT.

BUT I DON'T THINK THERE ARE MANY PEOPLE CAPABLE OF THAT.

I GET THE FEELING THE SOS BRIGADE IS STRUCTURED LIKE AN ATOM.

ON THE LARGE SCALE IT MOVES AROUND, STICKING TO SOME THINGS AND BOUNCING OFF OTHERS.

BUT INTER-NALLY IT'S VERY COHESIVE AND STABLE.

TSURUYA-SAN COULD PROBABLY DO IT.

BUT EVEN IF SHE KNOWS THAT, SHE'S PROBABLY CHOSEN NOT TO.

EVEN I KNOW THAT MUCH.

REALLY?

I'M KIND OF SHOCKED.

IT'S A BIT EMBAR-RASSING.

YOU'RE THE ONLY PERSON I'VE TOLD.

HER BEING A NORTH HIGH STUDENT ...

...IS ACTUALLY THE ONLY REASON I CAME TO THIS SCHOOL.

I'VE GOTTEN TO KNOW JUST HOW UNFATHOMABLY SMART SHE IS.

THANKS TO YOU AND SUZUMIYA-SAN, I'VE ACTUALLY BEEN ABLE TO BE FRIENDS WITH HER.

AS FAR AS I CAN TELL, TSURUYA'S AN HONEST-TO-GOODNESS GENIUS.

TO BE WITH A GENIUS, YOU HAVE TO BE AT THEIR LEVEL TOO.

BUT IT'S A LITTLE DEPRESSING.

BUT I'M NOT GOING TO GIVE UP.

ALTHOUGH BY THE TIME I GET TO HER LEVEL, SHE'LL BE EVEN HIGHER...

TO REACH SUCH HEIGHTS, ALL I CAN DO IS STUDY AS HARD AS I CAN.

THE PERSON I'VE SET AS MY GOAL IS CHARGING ON AHEAD.

I FEEL PRETTY GOOD RIGHT NOW.

I'M GONNA HAVE TO WORK HARD TO KEEP UP. I GET EXCITED JUST THINKING ABOUT IT.

IS THAT WEIRD?

YOU'VE GOT GREAT ASPI-RATIONS.

NOT AT ALL.

I HADN'T KNOWN KUNIKIDA COULD BE SO TALKATIVE.

I GUESS YOU CAN NEVER TELL ABOUT SOME PEOPLE.

TO SET HIS SIGHTS ON TSURUYA-SAN, WHOSE STANDARDS WERE SO HIGH NOT EVEN KOIZUMI MET THEM...

...HE WOULDN'T HAVE TO SEARCH THE WORLD FOR WHAT HE WAS SEEKING.

I BET YOU'LL GET TO A GOOD PLACE, KUNIKIDA.

THE BEST I COULD PROBABLY HOPE FOR IS BEING TREATED LIKE A MUCH YOUNGER BROTHER.

TSURUYA-SAN BEING TSURUYA-SAN, SHE'D PROBABLY LIKE SOMEONE WHO'D FORCED HIMSELF TO BE SMART.

HEY, HARUHI.

WHY'D YOU COME TO NORTH HIGH?

OH, KYON.

WE'RE BACK TO NORMAL OPERATION TODAY.

COME STRAIGHT TO THE CLUB ROOM AFTER CLASS.

GI (SQUEEK)

HMM...

HUH.

WHAT'S WITH THAT GRIN?

FUMU CHMMO

I JUST FELT LIKE IT.

I COULD'VE GONE TO A PRIVATE SCHOOL...

...BUT I GOT THE FEELING THIS PLACE WOULD HAVE AT LEAST ONE INTERESTING CLUB.

NOT AT ALL.

ANYWAY, WOULD A CLUB THAT WAS THAT OBVIOUS HAVE GOTTEN YOUR ATTENTION?

GUU (GRUMBLE)

I KNOW WHAT YOU WANT TO SAY.

THERE WEREN'T ANY GOOD CLUBS AFTER ALL.

YOU'RE PROBABLY THINKING MY INTUITION WAS BAD.

KUTA (SLUMP)

"IN THIS MOMENT, WITH NO OFFERING TO BRING ...

"... SEE, O TAMUKE MOUNTAIN!

"HERE ARE BROCADES OF RED MAPLE.

"AS A TRIBUTE TO THE GODS."

OTHERWISE IT'S NOT A S-E-C-R-E-T.

HEH HEH.

AND WHEN I SAY "SECRET," I MEAN IT SPELLED OUT IN HIRAGANA.

I GUESS NOT.

I WAS JUST HOPING FOR SOME KIND OF SECRET ORGANIZATION.

THE SECRET ORGANIZATION FOUNDED HERE WAS NOW ROOTED IN THIS SCHOOL.

YOUR WISH CAME TRUE, HARUHI.

ITS MEANING ASIDE

...I KNOW FOR SURE THAT'S NOT A SPRING POEM.

AHH

DEEPLY ENOUGH THAT A FEW TIME TRAVELERS AND ALIENS COULDN'T SHAKE IT.

HM?

SHAWAWA (POUR)

I GUESS SHE WAS REALLY A MIDDLE SCHOOLER ALL ALONG ...

NO WONDER I KEPT THINKING SHE SEEMED LIKE A YOUNGER SISTER.

はあ？

HAAH (SIGH)

SHE WAS JUST SO, SO CUTE!

AND SHE CALLED ME "SENPAI..."

NOW THAT SHE MENTIONED IT, I REALIZED I'D NEVER CALLED ASAHINA-SAN "SENPAI" EITHER.

IF I WERE TO TELL HER EVERY-THING I KNEW ABOUT ASAHINA THE ELDER AND FUJI-WARA...

THIS ASAHINA-SAN RIGHT HERE WOULD SOMEHOW EVENTUALLY BECOME THE ADULT VERSION OF HERSELF.

I REALIZED SOME-THING AS I GAZED AT THE WISTFUL ASAHINA-SAN.

NEXT YEAR I'LL BE...

I WONDER IF WE'LL EVER SEE HER AGAIN.

THIS GOT LEFT IN THE CLUB ROOM.

WOULD THAT BRING THE TIME-TRAVELER-RELATED INCIDENTS TO AN END?

...GRADU-ATING.

I'LL LEAVE THE FUTURE TO MY FUTURE SELF.

SORRY I'M LATE!

AH, WELL, HOW WAS I SUP-POSED TO KNOW?

THE TIME TRAVELERS COULD TAKE CARE OF THE FUTURE HOWEVER THEY LIKED.

I WONDERED IF THAT WAS WHY ASAHINA-SAN WAS A YEAR AHEAD OF US IN THIS "SETTING."

I USED TO HAVE ONE JUST LIKE IT.

MA

HYOI (TOSS)

NOW I REMEMBER.

KO (TOK)

HUH?

I LOST IT WHEN I STARTED MIDDLE SCHOOL.

TA (TAP)

I KNEW I'D SEEN IT SOMEWHERE BEFORE.

KTA

SO SHE USED ONE TOO, HUH?

FUWA (FWISH)

WHO WAS IT THAT CALLED OUT TO HARUHI, I WONDER.

WAS IT SOMEONE I KNEW? OR WAS IT SOME THIRD PARTY I'D NEVER MET IN MY LIFE?

SEEING HER FROM BEHIND, I IMMEDIATELY THOUGHT OF THE FUTURE HARUHI I'D SEEN IN MY VISION.

THAT MUCH I HAD TO ACKNOWLEDGE, AFTER ALL.

I HOPED I'D BE PART OF THAT SCENE.

BUT WHEN I REALIZED WHAT I WAS THINKING, I FORGOT TO FEIGN SHOCK AND SIMPLY ACCEPTED IT.

IF SO, THAT HADN'T BEEN A VERY NICE VISION.

WHAT ABOUT TACHIBANA'S PSEUDO-AGENCY?

WOULD THE OTHER ALIEN FACTION KEEP CAUSING PROBLEMS?

TO DO THAT, THERE WAS STILL A LOT I HAD TO ACCOMPLISH.

GOING ALONG WITH HARUHI'S COMPULSORY TUTORING.

SECOND ANNUAL NEW YEAR'S SOS BRIGADE MEETING!!

I DIDN'T HAVE THE FAINTEST IDEA, AND IT WAS GIVING ME A HEADACHE.

I DIDN'T HEAR ABOUT THIS!

SECOND ANNUAL... WAIT, WHAT?

WHAT PRESENT WAS I GOING TO GET THE BRIGADE CHIEF?

OR— WHAT HAD I GOTTEN HER?

KYON, READ IT!

BUT I WAS GETTING AHEAD OF MYSELF.

I HAD SOMETHING RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME I HAD TO TAKE CARE OF.

BUT IT WOULD BE A SHAME TO JUST EAT AND DRINK.

WE'VE BEEN INVITED TO TSURUYA-SAN'S BLOSSOM VIEWING PARTY.

DIDN'T I TELL YOU?

SO!

THE SOS BRIGADE'S SPIRIT OF SERVICE AND MY SENSE OF PRIDE WON'T ALLOW THAT!

A SHOW THAT'LL GET EVERY-BODY THERE AP-PLAUD-ING LIKE CRAZY!

YEAH!!

WE'RE GONNA PUT ON A SIDE-SHOW!

NOW WAIT JUST A MINUTE.

ALL KINDS OF LOCAL CELEBRITIES AND IMPORTANT PEOPLE COME TO THIS THING.

THE TSURUYA FAMILY BLOSSOM PARTY IS A BIG DEAL, YOU KNOW?

HIGH? LAUGHTER KNOWS NO BOUNDS!

THE QUALITY OF THE AUDIENCE WILL BE— WHAT, YOU SAY?

NO — MAYBE WE SHOULD JUST CALL IT THE MAIN EVENT!

WE'RE GONNA DO THIS SIDE-SHOW!

THE SOS BRIGADE PRESENTS THE GREATEST LAUGHS ON EARTH...

...THAT WILL BRING PEACE TO THE ENTIRE PLANET!

...A FRESH NEW ENTER-TAINMENT EXPERIENCE ...

I GOT THE FEELING THAT ANOTHER POINTLESS LINE WAS GOING TO GET ADDED TO MY RESUME.

BUT, I'D MANAGE SOMEHOW.

I WASN'T ALONE, FORTUNATELY.

THANKS TO ALL THE RUNNING AROUND I'D DONE, I'D GOT PLENTY OF EXPERIENCE AND FRIENDS.

AND ANY-WAY...

NO MATTER WHO WE FACED.

...SO LONG AS THE FIVE OF US WERE TOGETHER, WE COULD DO ANYTHING.

SUUU (INHALE)

I NOW DECLARE THIS STRATEGY PLANNING MEETING OPEN!

SIGN: SOS BRIGADE MEETING IN PROGRESS! TOP SECRET

RAINY DAY

BASHA

BASHA (SPLASH)

ABOUT HALF A YEAR REMAINED BEFORE MY COMFORTABLE MIDDLE SCHOOL EXPERIENCE CAME TO AN END.

HALTING THE PROGRESS OF THE CALENDAR OR OTHERWISE STOPPING THE NEEDLE OF TIME WAS IMPOSSIBLE FOR A MERE MIDDLE SCHOOLER.

WAI (YAY)

WAI

THIS IS A STORY FROM BACK WHEN I WAS IN MIDDLE SCHOOL.

WAI

WAI

WAI

WAI

YOU LOOK TIRED. NOT ENOUGH SLEEP?

HEY, KYON.

RAINY DAY
IT WAS DURING THE BEGINNING TO THE MIDDLE OF SEPTEMBER, OF OUR THIRD AND LAST YEAR OF MIDDLE SCHOOL.
HEY, SASAKI-SAN.
YOU GUYS SEEM TO BE PRETTY CLOSE EVER SINCE THE SECOND SEMESTER STARTED.
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN OVER THE SUMMER TO BRING YOU TOGETHER?
TA (SMAK)
TA

THAT WAS OKA-MOTO.

YOU HAVEN'T TURNED IN YOUR GUIDANCE COUNS-ELING FORMS YET, HAVE YOU?

I GOT THEM FROM THE TEACHER, SO FILL THEM OUT WHEN WE GET BACK.

IGNORE HIM.

YOU TWO, THERE!

GUIDANCE COUNS-ELING, EH?

WHAT'RE YOUR PLANS, KYON?

I GUESS HER EYES WERE BAD

MU CHMM

SHE WAS OUR GROUP LEADER.

AND AS USUAL, SHE SEEMED TOTALLY UNAWARE OF HER GOOD LOOKS.

WITH YOUR GRADES, YOU'LL GO TO ONE OF THOSE PREP SCHOOLS FOR SMART KIDS, RIGHT?

I GUESS I'LL JUST TRY TO SNEAK INTO SOMEWHERE CLOSE.

HAVEN'T REALLY THOUGHT ABOUT IT

SPEAKING OF WHICH, IT SEEMS LIKE KUNIKIDA-KUN'S DECIDED WHERE HE WANTS TO GO.

I'VE THOUGHT ABOUT THE POSSI-BILITY.

SO HE WANTS TO GO WHERE THEY'RE GOING.

EVIDENTLY HE HAS A PARTIC-ULAR PERSON IN MIND.

...SO I'M SURE HE'LL GET INTO A FAMOUS SCHOOL.

WELL, HE'S A PRETTY SMART GUY TOO...

MIIIN

MIII N

MIII N (BZZZZ)

I JUST WANT TO STAY HERE AT THE POOL-SIDE, LOOKING UP AT THE BLUE SKY.

HEE HEE.

BASHA (SPLASH)

BASHA

I'M KIND OF SICK OF IT.

SUMMER VACATION ONLY JUST ENDED, AND WE ALREADY HAVE TO START THINKING SIX MONTHS AHEAD.

WAI

WAI (CHATTER)

WAI

YOU CAN'T STOP TIME.

IT'S A NON-REVERSIBLE PROCESS, SO OUR POSITIONS ARE ALWAYS CHANGING.

IF YOU WANT TO MAKE YOUR DREAMS HAPPEN, YOU'VE GOT TO KEEP WALKING.

WAI

WAI

BASHA

GOOD GRIEF.

THAT WON'T DO, KYON.

BASHA

I'VE GOT A DREAM I'D LIKE TO SEE COME TRUE, YOU KNOW.

BUT IT'S NOT SOME-THING I CAN EXPLAIN TO SOMEONE ELSE.

?

?

AAAAAA

SHAAA (FWISSSHH)

DREAMS, HUH?

SO WHAT DREAM ARE YOU THINKING OF, TO DECIDE WHAT TO DO?

PO (PLIP)

PO

PO

MM...

AFTER ALL, I THINK HOPES AND DREAMS ...

...ARE MORE SOMETHING YOU THINK ABOUT THAN THEY ARE SOMETHING YOU TELL OTHER PEOPLE.

AAA

PPP

ZAAAAA (HISSSSHHHHH)

THIS IS NO GOOD, KYON.

LET'S FIND SOMEWHERE TO GET OUT OF THE RAIN.

PP

YOU KEEP SAYING THAT!

AAAA

P

YOU'RE JUST AS BAD!

DIDN'T IT RAIN LAST TIME ON OUR WAY TO CRAM SCHOOL TOO?

WHAT ARE YOU, A RAIN MAN?

HH

P

GEEZ.

P

ZAAAA

SO MUCH FOR SWIM CLASS BEING SO REFRESHING, HUH?

AAA

...BUT IF I KEEP GETTING SOAKED LIKE THIS, THAT MIGHT CHANGE.

ZAAAAA (FSSSSHHH)

WHEW...

PERSONALLY, I'VE ALWAYS CONSIDERED MYSELF A PERSON WHO LIKES RAIN...

BY THE WAY, KYON.

WHOOPS.

...GOOD GRIEF.

TRY NOT TO STARE AT ME TOO MUCH, WOULD YOU?

"GOOD GRIEF," INDEED.

I CAN'T IMAGINE THERE'S ANYTHING TO BE GAINED LOOKING AT MY MEAGER ASSETS, ANYWAY.

AT THE RAIN, AND AT MYSELF AS WELL.

GENETICALLY I AM 100% FEMALE, AFTER ALL.

EVEN I CAN'T JUST PRETEND I DON'T MIND AT ALL.

IT WAS A COMPLETELY POINTLESS THING TO SAY.

COULDN'T I HAVE COME UP WITH SOMETHING A LITTLE WITTIER?

YOUR CLOTHES WILL DRY FAST.

GOOD THING... IT'S SUMMER.

THAT'S RIGHT.

OH.

GOOD GRIEF...

THE PHRASE THAT BECAME SUCH A HABIT OF MINE ONCE I ENTERED NORTH HIGH AND MET HARUHI CAME FROM THIS MOMENT WITH SASAKI.

SAAA

SAA (FSHH)

I DON'T REMEMBER HOW LATE WE WERE TO CRAM SCHOOL THAT DAY.

BUT I CAN SAY THIS MUCH.

THAT MUCH I KNOW FOR SURE.

BUT THAT'S THE DAY I STARTED SAYING "GOOD GRIEF."

I REMEMBER ALL SORTS OF THINGS, BUT MY MEMORIES ARE A TOTAL MESS.

RAINY DAY : END

THANK YOU FOR READING!

The Melancholy of Haruhi Suzumiya

20

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This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

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English translation © 2014 by Hachette Book Group, Inc.

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Yen Press
Hachette Book Group
1290 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10104

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First Yen Press ebook Edition: November 2014

ebook ISBN: 978-0-316-33647-5

App ISBN: 978-0-316-33648-2